

2016 Oakland Environmental Commission Accomplishments

The Oakland Environmental Commission had a busy year. Projects like the FLOW Green Film Festival, the EC table at the town carnival, and town Team Up to Clean Up took months of planning. We met every month this past year with a quorum except January.

Stewart Woods Park

Another phase of the Stewart Woods Park plan has begun. After meeting with Boy Scout, Riley Beach of Troop 49 several times at the park to discuss an eagle scout project, his plan was approved by the Mayor and Council during the summer of 2015. The framework of the kiosk was installed along Ramapo Valley Road in November. Nature stations were also installed that will correspond to a nature pamphlet that the EC expects to complete this Spring.

Also in the park, one of the new oak trees along RVR that died last year was removed by the DPW and the EC planted an oak sapling in its place.

Crossroads

Articles were submitted for each *Crossroads* edition that was published in 2016. Initiatives included in the *Crossroads*: Recycling information, borough wide park clean up and the prescription drug drop off information.

Great Oak Park

EC members participated in routine meetings of the Park Committee to review and discuss potential uses of the park.

Town Carnival Booth

An informational table was set up at the annual Town Carnival 6/25-6/28/16. Our focus this year was on recycling education; helping the residents understand our current recycling rules. We had a lot of free educational handouts as well. We also had a display on protecting our ground water resources and one on solar power education.

Pilgrim Pipeline

In September 2013 the EC presented their report on the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline to the Mayor and Council and based on that a resolution was passed opposing the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline. Since then **the EC has continued to follow the development of this proposal, and supported the Councils decisions to accept the ordinance to ban non-public utility pipelines within the borough.**

Website

Until August, an EC member maintained a separate website for the EC. This was a useful resource for updated information and initiatives. Then our website was merged into the new borough site. We attended the training sessions to be able to update our information. Also, attended the borough webinar on internet safety.

ANJEC Annual Meeting

In September, EC members attended the annual meeting for ANJEC. This is an inspirational meeting that helps us learn what other Environmental Commissions are doing throughout the state as well as a source of resources that are available for our town to better its stewardship of the environment.

FLOW Film Festival

EC members met and coordinated a series of environmental movies with speaker panels for the month of April. An Oakland EC member designed the flyer and poster for this event. This event was coordinated by the FLOW towns of Franklin Lakes, Oakland and Wyckoff environmental commissions. Three events were held at the Wyckoff Public Library and one at Ramapo High School.

Team Up to Clean Up Event

The Oakland Environmental Commission invited all residents and groups to join them at the “Team Up to Clean Up” Oakland's Parks event on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Approximately 100 volunteers assembled at Valley Middle School in the cafeteria beginning at 9:00am for breakfast. From there, we teamed up into six groups, each directed to one of Oakland's parks. At noon, we finish with a picnic lunch at Great Oak park. We designed our own stickers to give out to volunteers to wear that day. This event was sponsored by the Oakland Public Events Committee and a grant from the NJ Clean Communities Council. The DPW helped with the supplies and collected all the garbage bags after the event.

We are already planning this year's cleanup for April 22

Green Team

Began planning for Oakland's recertification for Sustainable Jersey.

Proposed Wawa site

Nancy Krause, Lee Haymon and Alex Myers composed a letter detailing the environmental impacts of a service center at the proposed location of Post Road and Plaza Rd intersection.. The letter was read by members present and approved to send to the Oakland Planning Board.

Respectfully submitted by, Nancy Krause
Oakland Environmental Commission Chairperson